

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SHIPWORM FROM THE UNITED STATES.\*

BY PAUL BARTSCH,

ASSISTANT CURATOR DIVISION OF MOLLUSKS, U. S. NATL. MUS.

In revising the collection of American shipworms in the U. S. National Museum, I find that the commonest one of the East Coast species is an undescribed form which has been variously referred to *Xylotrya palmulata*, *bipalmulata*, *bipinnata* and *fimbriata*. It may be known as

***Xylotrya gouldi* sp. nov.**

*Exterior*.—Shell subglobose, milk white. The shell is divided into three parts, an anterior and posterior projection and a main or central part. Anterior projection not quite as high as the umbo, large and expanded, differentiated from the central part of the shell by a well-marked constriction. Posterior notch forming an angle a little greater than a right angle. The posterior projection is marked by a series of parallel, equal and equally spaced, subtriangular and subacute, exceedingly finely denticulate ridges which are about three-quarters as wide at their base as the flat spaces that separate them. There are nine (9) of these ridges in the space of one millimeter at the junction of the posterior projection with the central part of the shell. The central part of the shell is divided into three parts. An anterior, well-rounded, smooth portion, which is marked by lines of growth only; a median centrally moderately depressed area, which is marked by strong lines of growth on the anterior half, and very strong, irregular, raised, rough lines on its posterior half; the third or posterior portion is sculptured with closely crowded, denticulate ridges which are separated by narrow, impressed lines. There are seventeen (17) of these ridges in the space of one millimeter at the posterior margin and about twenty-three enticles to the space of one millimeter on each ridge. The ridges of the posterior area of the central part of the shell run parallel with the posterior margin of the central part, joining the ridges of the posterior projection at a little more than a right angle. Hinge irregularly sinuous. The posterior projection is glazed by a moderately strong, translucent callus at the umbo.

*Interior.*—The anterior projection extends prominently over the central part, at its posterior edge, forming a strong, free lamella. The part anterior to the junction with the central area is marked by many subequal and subequally spaced, slender threads which coincide with the incremental lines. The central part is smooth, except the middle portion, which is decidedly roughened and bears a prominent subcylindrical knob at the ventral tip. The fusion of the central area and the posterior projection is marked by a thickened suture. The posterior projection is smooth, but permits the exterior sculpture to be seen through its semi-transparent mass. The blade which extends obliquely from the thickened umbo is rather broad, thin and sickle-shaped.

Pallets plumose, with a slender stalk which is almost as long as the blade. Junction of stalk and blade well marked; the first element of the blade appears as if the stalk were sunk in it. The blade itself is lanceolate, and is formed by a series of depressed cone-in-cone structures which have their bases partly free. The entire blade appears to be covered by a thin, horny film which bridges over the gap between the free base of one cone to the body of the next. The outer surface is well rounded; the free edge of the cone forms a decidedly curved outline, giving the blade the aspect of an ear of rye. The inner surface of the blade is almost flattened, and the elements are less deeply curved than on the outside. There are seventeen (17) joints to the blade of the type.

The type, Cat. No. 27,415 U. S. N. M., was collected in Norfolk Harbor, Va., and measures: altitude 8.6 mm., length 8.5 mm., diameter 9.2 mm., length of the blade of pallet 9.7 mm., greatest diameter of blade 2.0 mm., length of stalk 7.7 mm. The National Museum has specimens of this species from the following localities: .

*Virginia:* Norfolk Harbor, Newport News, Hampton Roads, Smith's Point, Chesapeake Bay. *South Carolina:* Charleston. *Florida:* Cedar Keys, St. Andrews, Pensacola, Pascagoula Bay. *Texas:* Galveston. *Louisiana:* Chandeleur Islands, Cameron. South Atlantic.